

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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P 191631Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5851

SECDEF WASHDC PRIOTIY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 00519

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BE, US

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON VANDEN BOEYNANTS TO RUMSFELD LETTER RE MAG

58

REF: BRUSSELS 472

FOLLOWING ARE OUR COMMENTS ON SUBJECT LETTER, TEXT OF WHICH WAS FORWARDED BRUSSELS 472:

(A) LETTER WAS PROMPTED BY FABRIQUE NATIONALE (FN) DEMARCHES MADE DIRECTLY TO VANDEN BOEYNANTS AND TO FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL (CHAMPENOIS).

(B) WHILE SELF-SERVING, FN APPROACHES TOUCHED RESPONSIVE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CHORD, FOR REASONS CHAMPENOIS GAVE AS REPORTED IN PARA 3 BRUSSELS 472. THIS APPROACH IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANCE, FOR BOTH POLITYICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS, BELGIAN GOVERNMENT PLACES ON ISSUE OF PROVIDING WORK IN BELGIUM. BELGIANS ALREADY RAISED THIS ISSUE IN PREVIOUS VANDEN BOEYNANTS TO RUMSFELD LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 21, 1975 (BRUSSELS 11478, DEC. 23, 1975), IN CONNECTION WITH F-16. THEY HAVE NOW POSED ISSUES AGAIN IN STRONGER TERMS.

(C) VANDEN BOEYNANTS COMMENT THAT HE HOPES TO DISCUSS
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MAG 58 ISSUE WITH RUMSFELD AT NPG MEETING IN HAMBURG

IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF HOW SERIOUSLY VANDEN BOEYNANTS
TREATS QUESTION OF HAVING CLOSE, PERSONAL WORKING
RELATIONSHIP WITH RUMSFELD. THIS ALSO WAS MENTIONED
IN NOVEMBER 21 VANDEN BOEYNANTS LETTER CITED. WE
BELIEVE THAT IMPORTANCE OF BELGIAN EFFORT IN THIS REGARD
EXTENDS BEYOND F-16 AND MAG 58 TO COVER ISSUES OF
"INTEROPERABILITY" AND "TWO WAY STREET". WE BELIEVE
THAT BELGIAN ROLE IN THESE ISSUES MAY WELL BE MORE
IMPORTANT THAN WEIGHT OF BELGIUM ALONE WOULD SUGGEST
AND THAT BELGIUM MAY AGAIN BE USEFUL MIDDLEMAN BETWEEN
U.S. AND FRANCE. WE SUGGEST THAT VANDEN BOEYNANTS BE DEL-
IBERATELY CULTIVATED BY TAKING NOTE OF HIS EFFORTS IN REPLIES
TO BOTH LETTERS. FIRESTONE

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Message Attributes

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